

Message Text

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 7285

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, AORG, APER, UN

SUBJ: UN PERSONNEL - REQUESTION FOR EXTENSION OF US CITIZEN BENJAMIN REINER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DIVISION, ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

1. ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK IN MAY 1976 REQUESTED THIRD ONE-YEAR EXTENSION FOR US CITIZEN BENJAMIN REINER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DIVISION, ECE, WHOSE CONTRACT WILL EXPIRE NOV. 30, 1976 (DATE OF BIRTH -NOV. 11, 1914) (GRADE P-5). THIRD EXTENSION ALSO REQUESTED AT SAME TIME FOR UK NATIONAL BARRIE DAVIES, DIRECTOR, STATISTICAL DIVISION, ECE (SAME AGE AS REINER). AT THAT TIME STANOVNIK REPORTEDLY RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM ASG GEHAB, UN PERSONNEL NEW YORK, THAT, AS HAS BEEN USUAL PRACTICE WITH SUCH REQUESTS, BOTH EXTENSIONS WOULD BE GRANTED.

2. DAVIES EXTENSION RECEIVED IN EARLY AUGUST, REPORTEDLY AFTER INTERVENTION BY UK MISSION NEW YORK. REINER EXTENSION STILL NOT RECEIVED, ALTHOUGH DAVIES CONSIDERED MORE EASILY REPLACEABLE THAN REINER AND STAFF MORALE PROBLEM FORESEEN IF EXTENSIONS NOT GRANTED ON EQUAL BASIS.

3. REINER HAS EXERCISED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HUMAN
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SETTLEMENTS ACTIVITIES OF ECE UNDER DIVISION DIRECTOR

AMASSA BISHOP. SINCE BISHOP IS ALSO US CITIZEN (WHOSE CONTRACT RECENTLY RENEWED FOR THREE YEARS), THERE APPEARS TO BE VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY THAT REINER WOULD BE REPLACED BY OTHER US CITIZEN. STANOVNIK IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM USSR FOR POST, WHICH WOULD LOGICALLY GO TO EASTERN EUROPEAN. AT PRESENT TIME STANOVNIK WOULD PROBABLY AVOID APPOINTING SOVIET NATIONAL BY PROMOTING REINER'S DEPUTY, PALM(SWEDEN), ALTHOUGH PALM IS NOT MOST IMPRESSIVE MEMBER OF ECE STAFF. WITH TIME STANOVNIK MIGHT BE ABLE TO WORK OUT WAY TO APPOINT OTHER WESTERNER, POSSIBLY CANADIAN.

4. QUESTION OF REPLACEMENT ASIDE, FEINER'S PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS ARGUE IN FAVOR OF HIS EXTENSION. IN ADDITION TO LONG AND COMPETENT WORK FOR ECE IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, HE HAS BEEN HEAVILY INVOLVED IN HABITAT ACTIVITIES (AND SERVED AS SECRETARY OF COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL ACTION) WHICH EXPERIENCE WOULD BE OF GREAT VALUE TO ECE IN HABITAT FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE IN US INTEREST (AS WELL AS SERVICE TO ECE) FOR USUN TO INTERVENE WITH UN PERSONNEL NEW YORK IN SUPPORT OF REINER EXTENSION AND REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE SUCH ACTION.CATTO

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